

# Master Of Oregon Grange Raps Private Power Firms

BAKER, Ore. (AP) — Private power companies have mounted the most intense brain-washing campaign possible in this country, the master of the Oregon State Grange said here today.

And that campaign, said Elmer McClure, has deluded the "American people into accepting the totally false premise that public development of the public's domain is a shameful thing."

In a speech prepared for delivery to the Grange's state convention, McClure asked:

"Why is it possible that hydroelectric development here in Oregon has stopped and our industrial expansion stopped with it?"

"Why is it that our state Legislature kills every proposal to increase the availability of low-cost power in this state?"

The answer, McClure said, is that the "private power interests and their hirelings have used every technique so far devised by man to brain-wash the American people."

McClure said that when the Legislature this year was considering a bill to create a state Power Commission, private power companies urged school boards to bring pressure to defeat the bill.

The boards were told, McClure said, that the bill would destroy their tax base. Nothing could have been further from the truth, he added.

Most people seem unaware, McClure said, that the Eisenhower Administration is bent upon turning over hydro-electric resources

to "a gigantic string of monopolies."

"Control of our water . . . is the control of civilization itself," McClure said. "We simply cannot afford to place this power in the hands of any group whose sole purpose is to exploit for profit."

"Where they have been victorious and have succeeded in preventing a multi-purpose dam site, they have failed miserably to develop the full potential of the site," he said.

McClure said private power firms develop "only enough of the

dam site's potential to produce the amount of power for which they have an immediate market."

That is "unforgivably shortsighted," McClure said. "Industrial expansion follows the availability of an abundance of low cost power."

In his speech, McClure touched on other aspects of power, and urged an intertie that could carry surplus power from the Bonneville Administration to California.

McClure said too that he supports a moratorium on licensing

additional hydroelectric projects "on the middle reach of the Snake River" until ways of getting fish runs past the dams have been explored more thoroughly.

The state should try to attract industry, McClure said. But he said the state also must remember this:

"Agriculture is what is going to make or break the economy of Oregon for many, many years to come."

McClure urged studies to find new uses for farm products and new methods of merchandising.

# Reds Trying To Panic West Into Test Ban

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Atomic sources said today Russia may be trying to panic the West into a test ban agreement by raising the specter of Communist China armed with nuclear weapons.

But Chairman Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) of the Senate disarmament subcommittee said he had information from a high scientific source that Red China could explode an atom bomb this year.

These were the conflicting reactions to reports circulating in Geneva that the Red Chinese have accumulated enough fissionable material to touch off a nuclear blast, possibly this fall.

The reports said this possibility spurred the efforts by United States, Britain and Russia to reach accord on a test ban. Some officials believe Russia fears a nuclear-armed China as much as the West. Although the Chinese would not be a party to the test ban agreement, it was suggested that they would be morally bound by it.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), chairman of the congressional atomic energy military applications subcommittee, said he did not believe Red China could scrape together enough atomic explosives to make a bomb.

He viewed the Geneva rumors as a "propaganda pressure deal" to persuade the West to accept a test ban that was "not properly conceived."

Other U.S. sources agreed. One official said "we have never received any information" from the

Central Intelligence Agency or elsewhere that Communist China "has the capability of making atomic weapons."

Another official said Russia would look with horror on its Communist neighbor owning nuclear weapons. But he said the Soviets could suggest that possibility to frighten the United States and Britain into accepting a disadvantageous test ban.

Humphrey, however, said "there is no particular secret about the bomb. The Chinese can get uranium from Russia or elsewhere and they could process explosives in a crude reactor."

He said, "if they could test one bomb, it will mean they have the facilities for making more of them."



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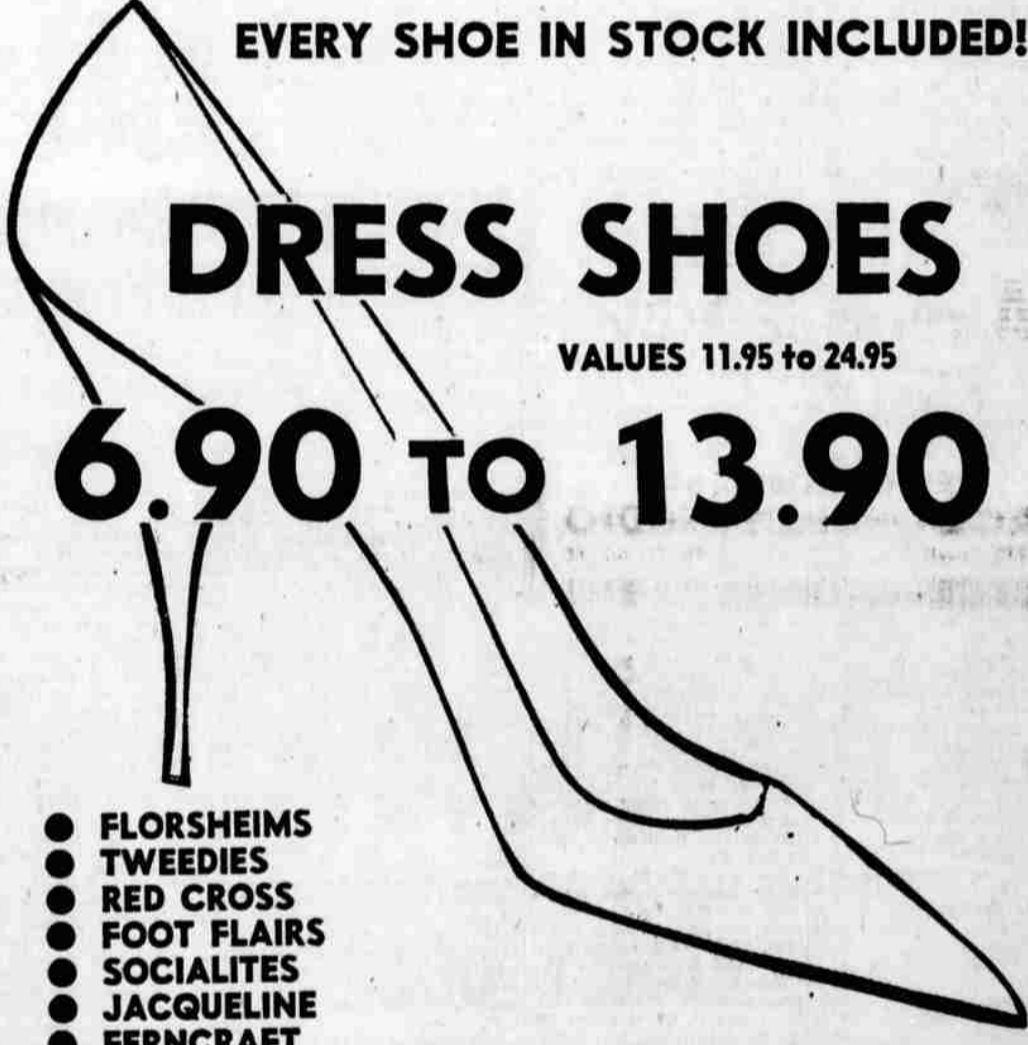
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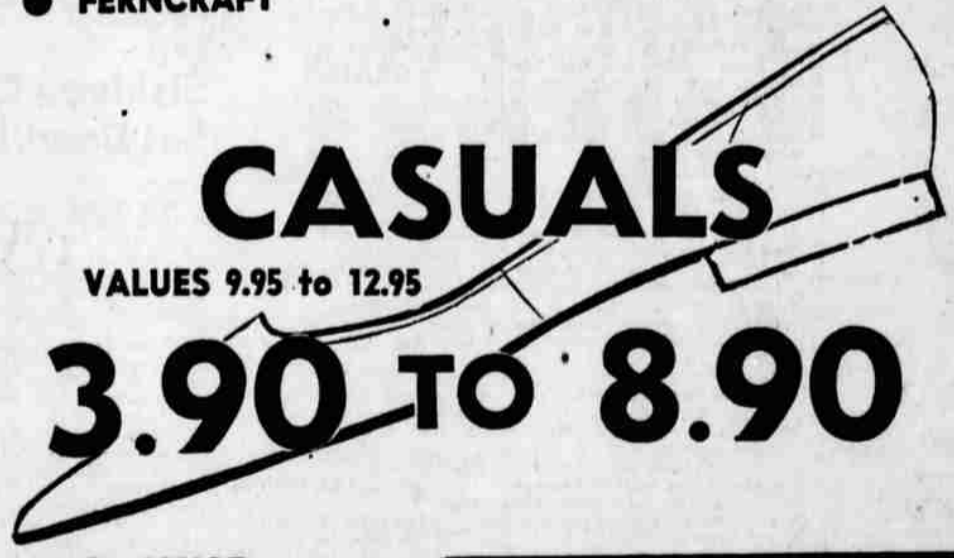
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